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## UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : The Role of the DCI China Coordinator

REFERENCES : a. USIB-M-613, 10 February 1972,  
item 6  
b. USIB-D-58.1/3, 19 July 1965

At the USIB meeting of 10 February 1972 (reference a.)

[redacted] briefed the Board on this subject along the following lines:

" I have recommended to Mr. Helms that the post of DCI China Coordinator be phased out. I would like first to discuss the background for this and following that to make some remarks from my vantage point on how I think we stand at this time as far as the payoff from our China programs is concerned.

" The position of DCI China Coordinator was established in 1965 in the wake of China's first nuclear experiment. It was then necessary to heighten awareness in the Community of the need to improve our China coverage. The first Coordinator was [redacted] who discharged his China duties in addition to chairing USIB's CCPC. Working with representatives from all the USIB member agencies [redacted] concentrated on encouraging the allocation to China of additional collection resources, on setting a higher priority for China requirements and on creating a Community-wide inventory of assets.

" He was succeeded in 1968 by [redacted] whose major contribution was the preparation and coordination of two studies published under USIB auspices, one on Chinese Communist advanced

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weapons and US intelligence capabilities, and the other on warning capabilities against strategic attack. In addition, he and the Coordinating Group found opportunities to assist in creating better communications among collectors and analysts in the China field.

" My appointment as DCI China Coordinator dates from November 1970. I have been the beneficiary of the essential work of my predecessors, on the one hand, and on the other I have presided over the Coordinating Group during a time when the China intelligence problem has been transformed from the pursuit of a coterie to the central concern of a whole bureaucracy.

" The July 1971 announcement of President Nixon's intention to visit Peking and the October United Nations action have meant that China has been receiving top-level attention in the Administration and particularly within the Intelligence Community. Generalists at the top have been doing their homework on China and specialists have been kept on their toes with calls for assistance. The commanders and managers have been using all normal available lines of communication, liaison and command to deal with China needs, just as they do in the case of the Soviet Union. The various USIB committees have all found that China has been in the forefront of their concern. This, I feel certain, will continue to be the case. There is no lack of available committees and forums in which China business can be thrashed out.

" In these circumstances the DCI China Coordinator has had an understandably diminishing role. At the start it was advantageous that his anomalous geographic responsibility placed him across the path of other duly constituted reviewing and advisory elements in the Community. The arrangement now looks a bit like a fifth wheel.

" Of perhaps equal weight in reaching a recommendation to terminate this function is the current state of the Community's capability to respond to China needs. Conscious of the risk of seeming complacent, I am bound to report that there has been significant improvement across the board over where we were two or three years ago. Much of the reason for this lies in the improvement in the data base resulting from analysis [REDACTED] We are now getting up to speed in

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covering China's advanced weapons and we have reasonable assurance that we shall be able to avoid surprise. The DCI China Coordinator has been able to participate in some of the programs involved in this overall improvement, but the credit goes to the program managers who have seen the need and have responded to it. In sum, I would submit that the China Coordinator has fulfilled a useful function which now has been overtaken by events.

" I would like to outline very briefly where I think we stand with respect to China coverage, emphasizing that what I have to say is my own view, unenhanced by any coordination and unencumbered by any direct responsibility for programs. My debt is to the many friends throughout our professional Community who have shared their information and opinions with me in recent months.

An Assessment of Intelligence Analysis  
and Production on China

" There has been steady improvement in the Intelligence Community's ability to respond to the needs of policymakers and other consumers since 1965. The data base still has some holes in it, but taken overall the situation on the eve of President Nixon's trip to Peking is satisfactory. Some salient points appear to me to be as follows:

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